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December 9, 2022

Rick Johnson, PhD, MS  
Interim Dean, School of Public Health  
Oregon Health & Science University/Portland State University  
*Sent via email*

Dear Dr. Johnson:

On behalf of the Council on Education for Public Health, I am pleased to advise you that the CEPH Board of Councilors acted at its December 1-2, 2022 meeting to accredit the OHSU-PSU School of Public Health for a seven-year term, with an interim report due in fall 2023.

The accreditation term extends until December 31, 2029, pending your continued documentation of compliance through the interim report, annual reporting, and any other reporting required by the Council.

The interim report will be due on October 16, 2023 and must address the criteria below, for which there were “partially met” assessments. Specifically, the interim report should provide evidence that the school has:

- a) Continued to implement methods designed to improve bachelor’s degree graduation rates and monitored the success of these methods, adjusting as needed. The report must include [Template B3-1](#), completed for the school’s public health bachelor’s degree, as well as narrative context that includes at least the following:
  - An update on methods implemented to improve graduation rates, including monitoring the success of existing methods and modifying or adding methods as needed
  - Data on graduation rates for similar PSU bachelor’s programs
  - Evidence that the school monitors reasons for withdrawal or non-completion(Criterion B3 in 2021 Accreditation Criteria, B2 in 2016 Criteria)<sup>1</sup>
- b) Collected information on bachelor’s degree graduates’ post-graduation outcomes using methods that are explicitly designed to minimize the number of students with unknown outcomes. The report must include [Template B4-1](#), as well as appropriate narrative context including discussion of collection methods and impact of any new initiatives or efforts to improve data collection, as appropriate. (Criterion B4)
- c) Collected and reviewed useful information on bachelor’s degree alumni’s perceptions of their preparation for the workforce (or for further education, if applicable). The report must include data collection instruments and a description of the methodology, as well as the results and evidence of discussion and review. (Criterion B5)
- d) Defined curricular requirements to ensure that students in the MPH in Environmental Systems and Human Health develop, and are assessed on, an appropriate depth of discipline-specific knowledge and skills. The report must include a clear statement of the concentration-specific curricular requirements; an updated, completed version of [Template D4-1](#); and documentation of the depth of disciplinary knowledge and skill demonstration to accompany the template, including

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<sup>1</sup> The Council adopted revised Accreditation Criteria in 2021. All subsequent reporting requests will refer to this most current criteria set’s numbering, rather than to the numbering from this review process.

the full set of instructions (as provided to students) for each assessment activity and the syllabus for each referenced course. (Criterion D4)

- e) Implemented curricular requirements that ensure that all bachelor's degree students in public health complete coursework that addresses foundations of biological and life sciences. (Criterion D9)
- f) Implemented curricular requirements that ensure coverage of all elements of the project implementation domain for students in the school health education and pre-clinical health science concentrations. (Criterion D9)
- g) Implemented curricular requirements that ensure that epidemiology PhD students complete a curriculum that ensures that they are positioned to appropriately communicate epidemiologic research, as specified in the school's self-defined concentration competencies. (Criterion D17)
- h) Assessed all students in the BS in health and fitness on foundational learning objectives 11 and 12. The report must include [Template D18-1](#), completed for these objectives only, as well as the relevant syllabus AND the assessment activities for these learning objectives (e.g., sample quiz question(s), reflection prompt, assignment instructions). (Criterion D18)
- i) Implemented policies and practices to improve the consistency and quality of engagement and advising for students in the public health bachelor's program. In addition to narrative about policies and practices, the school must include updated data that shows, at a minimum, actionable data on student perceptions of staff and faculty advising and mentorship. (Criterion H1)

Additionally, the Council acted to require submission of a [substantive change notice](#) by **January 12, 2023** addressing the bachelor's degree concentration in indigenous health. Additional information on substantive changes is available on the [CEPH website](#).

Please be aware that failure to come into compliance with all accreditation criteria must trigger specific actions on CEPH's part. These actions, mandated in federal regulations governing accrediting agencies that are recognized by the US Department of Education, include initiating adverse action or, if good cause is demonstrated, extending by one year the period during which the program or school may come into compliance with the remaining criteria, after which CEPH must take adverse action. CEPH is required to deny or revoke accreditation when a school or program fails to demonstrate that it has come into compliance. Thus, interim reports have serious consequences. Additional information about preparing interim reports is available on the [CEPH website](#).

We are enclosing a copy of the Council's final accreditation report. The report is also being transmitted to the chief executive officer of your university as the Council's official report. This differs from the team's report that you received prior to our meeting in the following areas:

- The Council added language to Criteria B2 (Graduation Rates), B3 (Post-Graduation Outcomes), B4 (Alumni Perceptions), D9 (Bachelor's Foundational Domains), D10 (Bachelor's Public Health Domains), D18 (Doctoral Degrees), and D19 (All Remaining Degrees) acknowledging the school's response to the site visit team's report and clarifying the remaining concerns, as applicable.
- The Council changed the site visit team's finding for Criterion D2 (MPH Foundational Competencies) from partially met to met and added language explaining its rationale.
- The Council changed the team's finding for Criteria D4 (MPH Concentration Competencies) and H1 (Academic Advising) from met with commentary to partially met and added language explaining its rationale.

I would like to call your attention to the disclosure provisions in our adopted procedures. You are expected to make the official accreditation report available to the public on request 60 days following the accreditation decision. ***You may make the report and final self-study available in full on your website or must clearly indicate on the website how to request a copy of either document.*** See Section 7 of the [Accreditation Procedures](#) for additional information.

You may append a written response whenever you distribute the report. The official report also will be available on request from CEPH after 60 days, but it is our intent to refer all initial requests to you. If you provide this office with a copy of a written response by January 23, 2023, we will be pleased to append it whenever we respond to a request for the report. Please note that this response is optional.

We would also like to remind you that whenever an accredited school or program undergoes a substantive change, it is obligated to provide written notification to CEPH of the intended change. Substantive changes are defined in the procedures manual, but generally include offering a new or discontinuing an existing degree, adding or discontinuing an area of specialization, offering a degree program in a different format or at a distant site and making major revisions to the curricular requirements. Additional information about substantive changes is available on our [website](#).

We appreciated the many courtesies and helpfulness extended to the site visit team.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Craig H. Blakely".

Craig H. Blakely, PhD, MPH  
President-Elect